VOLLEYBALL IRELAND – Club Re-Start Grant

Covid Funding Guidelines & Application Process

**INTRODUCTION**

In June 2020 the Government approved an investment programme of up to €70 million to

support the sports sector. This investment programme will be allocated through four targeted grant schemes:

1. The FAI, the GAA and the IRFU to receive up to €40 million

2. The National Governing Bodies, Local Sports Partnerships & Other Funded Bodies to

receive up to €10 million

3. A Sports Club Resilience Fund of up to €15 million to support clubs

4. A Sports Restart and Renewal Fund of up to €5 million

The stated objective of the COVID-19 scheme is to protect the sports sector from

permanent financial and strategic harm arising from the public health crisis.

In the instance of Scheme 3, Volleyball Ireland has applied to Sport Ireland for funding on behalf of individual Volleyball Clubs and will administer the fund.

The grant scheme is designed to support sporting activity only. These funds are not aimed

to replace lost income from ancillary activities such as hospitality, sub-letting facilities or

other non-sporting commercial activity.

**CORE OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF FUNDING**

* The primary purpose of the scheme is to prevent any viable Volleyball clubs from becoming insolvent, and to support clubs to re-start volleyball activity.
* Funding allocations to clubs under the scheme will be determined following a robust grant application and assessment process conducted by Volleyball Ireland and approved by Sport Ireland.
* Volleyball Ireland will distribute primarily to recognised and affiliated Volleyball clubs.
* Volleyball Ireland must be fully satisfied that the grant is absolutely required.
* The funding is targeted at issues arising from COVID 19.
* Pre-existing debts or deficits will not be covered.
* Principles of fairness will apply.

**FAIRNESS, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

Volleyball Ireland recognises that Volleyball clubs have been impacted individually by the COVID-19 crisis. Volleyball Clubs may apply for any amount up to a maximum of €4,500.

The stated aim of the Scheme means that the outcomes will be based on identified needs. That means the extent of applications can be estimated but is not knowable in advance. Nor can it be known how many valid applications will be received.

Volleyball Ireland will endeavour to ensure that the investment is distributed fairly. Every

effort will be made to ensure that the wider Volleyball community benefits from the scheme.

**PROCESS & TIMELINE**

* The closing date for applications will be 11.59pm, Monday, 25th January 2021
* Applications and supporting documentation should be sent to: [norma@volleyballireland.com](mailto:norma@volleyballireland.com)
* Late applications cannot be accepted.
* Final decisions will need to take into account the level of demand.
* Depending on the level of submissions, the outcome of those deliberations will be communicated to volleyball clubs mid/late February 2021.
* Subject to approval and standard Terms & Conditions, the process of payment will begin thereafter.

**RECOVERY AND RENEWAL PLANS**

The COVID-19 Grant Schemes are designed to ensure volleyball clubs can maintain

operations, avoid insolvency and prepare for a return to productive activity in good financial health.

Any financial recovery of the sector or an individual organisation will comprise of a number of elements:

1. Return to operations;

2. Use of reserves and other streams of finance to sustain liquidity;

3. Ensuring ongoing income (e.g. membership subscriptions, affiliations, renegotiate

commercial arrangements);

4. Cost reductions;

5. Supplemental grants (i.e. COVID 19 Grant Schemes).

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

When assessing applications, Volleyball Ireland will review a number of areas including:

a. Technical Merits of the Application (This includes verifiable evidence of need related to finances, the number of active players in the club, the club’s engagement with Volleyball Ireland programmes & activities, and the commitment of the club towards youth development).

b. Likelihood of meeting the primary objective of the scheme (i.e. avoiding insolvency and

maintaining operations)

c. Agree to be audited in relation to funds received from the Grant

d. Signed off by Club Chair/President and Treasurer

e. Adherence to Terms and Conditions as set out by Volleyball Ireland